

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended): A method for accessing information in an
2 information store in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:
3 receiving an access request comprising a request for a first type of information,
4 wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first information
5 contained in said information store;
6 replacing said request for a first type of information with a modified request for a
7 first type of information, wherein said modified request ~~being~~ is based on said access policy; and
8 accessing said information store to produce a result in response to said access
9 request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein each row of information
10 includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of
11 said first information depending ~~modified request produces either a masked value or said first~~
12 information, based on said access policy.
- B1
1 2. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said modified
2 request includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an
3 instance of said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first
4 information.
- 1 3. (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein said accessing includes
2 executing said mask function to produce either said masked value or said first information.
- 1 4. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including modifying
2 said access request to include a filter function, said filter function effective for eliminating
3 portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance with said access policy.

1 5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information
2 store is a relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1 6. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said information
2 store is a relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, said result
~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said method further including incorporating a filter
4 function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said
5 access policy.

1 7. (Currently amended): In a relational database, a method for accessing
2 information in accordance with an access policy, said method comprising:

3 providing at least one query comprising a SELECT statement, said SELECT
4 statement comprising one or more column references, each column reference identifying a
specific column in said relational database;

6 replacing at least one of said one or more column references with a mask function
7 to produce a modified query; and

8 producing a query result in response to said modified query comprising one or
9 more rows of information; *in database or query result*
10 *(112)* wherein some rows of information comprise entirely of information from said
11 relational database, and other rows of information comprise information from said relational
12 database and a mask value, depending on said access policy.

13 wherein said query result includes, for said at least one of said one or more
14 column references, either mask values or information from said relational database, based on
15 said access policy.

1 8. (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein said at least one query further
2 comprises a WHERE clause, said method further including modifying said WHERE clause to
3 produce a modified WHERE clause which includes a filter function, said filter function
4 producing one of two logical values, said modified WHERE clause effective for deleting a row
5 from said query result based on a value produced by said filter function.

1 9. (Currently amended): The method of claim 7 wherein said relational
2 database ~~in-is~~ provided in a database server; said step of providing includes receiving said at least
3 one query at a client system; and said step of producing includes transmitting said modified
4 query to said database server.

1 10. (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is
2 performed at said client system.

1 11. (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein said step of replacing is
2 performed at said database server.

1 12. (Currently amended): A computer-based information retrieval system
2 comprising:

3 computer memory having computer readable program code embodied therein for
4 accessing an information store in accordance with an access policy, said computer readable
5 program code comprising:

6 first code configured to receive an access request for a first type of
7 information, wherein said request for a first type of information has associated therewith first
8 information;

9 second code configured to replace said request for a first type of
10 information with a modified request for a first type of information, wherein said modified
11 request ~~being-is~~ based on said access policy; and

12 third code configured to access said information store to produce a result
13 in response to said access request, wherein said result comprises rows of information, wherein

14 each row of information includes either an instance of said first information or a masked value in
15 place of an instance of said first information depending, based on said access policy.

1 13. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including fourth
2 code configured to modify said access request to include a filter function, said filter function
3 effective for eliminating portions of one or more of said result rows of information in accordance
4 with said access policy.

1 14. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a
2 relational database and said request for a first type of information comprises a SELECT
3 statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said modified
4 request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references with a
5 mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational database.

1 15. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 further including a
2 relational database and said access request includes a WHERE clause, said result comprising one
3 or more rows of information, said second code further configured to incorporate a filter function
4 in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on said access
5 policy.

1 16. (Original): The system of claim 12 further including a client computer
2 system and a server computer system, said client computer system comprising a portion of said
3 computer memory embodying said first and second codes, said server computer system
4 comprising another portion of said computer memory embodying said third code.

1 17. (Currently amended): The system of claim 12 wherein said database
2 server is a relational database server, said request for a first type of information comprises a
3 SELECT statement, said SELECT statement comprising one or more column references, said
4 modified request comprising a replacement of at least one of said one or more column references
5 with a mask function, each column reference identifying a specific column in said relational
6 database.

1 18. (Currently amended): The system of claim 17 wherein said third code
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.

1 19. (Currently amended): The system of claim 16 wherein said database
2 server is a relational database server, said access request includes a WHERE clause, ~~said result~~
3 ~~comprising one or more rows of information~~, said second code further configured to incorporate
4 a filter function in said WHERE clause to remove certain rows contained in said result, based on
5 said access policy.

1 20. (Currently amended): The system of claim 19 wherein said third code
2 includes a mask function which determines for a row whether said row includes an instance of
3 said first information or a masked value in place of an instance of said first information.